

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANA 03124 070647Z

14
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 /069 W
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R 060900Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9009
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 3124

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SREF, ET, YE
SUBJECT: ETHIOPIA'S AMBASSADOR TO YEMEN REPORTEDLY ASKS FOR ASYLUM

1. ETHIOPIA'S CURRENT ENVOY TO SANA, COMMODORE TASSEW DESTA, HAS REPORTEDLY REQUESTED POLITICAL ASYLUM FROM THE YARG. MFA SOURCES INDICATE REQUEST WAS MADE LAST WEEK BY TASSEW DESTA WHO IS SAID TO BE PRESENTLY IN TAIZ. HE HAS BEEN ABSENT FROM HIS POST FOR THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS AND HAS NOT BEEN IN CONTACT WITH ANY EMBOFFS. ACCORDING TO MFA SOURCES, TASSEW'S REQUEST WAS PROMPTED BY RECENT EXECUTION OF SEVERAL COLLEAGUES BY DIRG IN ETHIOPIA. SINCE HIS ARRIVAL IN SANA FEBRUARY 1976, TASSEW HAS BEEN INCREASINGLY UNCOMFORTABLE WITH EPMG POLICIES.

2. IF YARG ACCEDES TO HIS REQUEST, TASSEW WILL BE SECOND RECENT ETHIOPIAN ENVOY TO HAVE OBTAINED ASYLUM IN YAR. FITAWRARI MUHAMMAD SIRAGE (AKA MUHAMMAD SIRAG SALIH) ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR HERE FROM 1968 TO 1975, WAS ACCORDED POLITICAL ASYLUM EARLIER THIS YEAR AND TRAVELS ON A YEMENI SPECIAL PASSPORT. HE IS REPORTEDLY ACTIVE IN TIGREAN LIBERATION AFFAIRS. BOTH FORMER AMBASSADORS HAVE CHILDREN STUDYING IN THE UNITED STATES.

3. TASSEW'S IMMEDIATE PREDECESSOR IN HIS JOB, DAGNEW WOLDE-SELASSIE, WAS RECALLED SHORTLY AFTER HIS APPOINTMENT. HIS FATE IS UNKNOWN.
LEE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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